

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

OCTOBER 16, 2007

This past weekend the nation witnessed the tragic loss of life and devastating impact associated with a multi-vehicle accident and ensuing fire in the southbound truck tunnel of Interstate 5 at the Newhall Pass.

The remarkable recovery effort and subsequent reopening of the north and south bound lanes of this major State artery are the results of the hard work and dedication by the first responders, and the collaborative efforts of local and state agencies. The County's Fire Department did a superb job in extinguishing a virtual inferno with temperatures over 1000 degrees as well as tending to the injured. Officials with CalTrans worked diligently to ensure the structural integrity of the freeway, and the California Highway Patrol provided timely reports to the public about alternate traffic routes. CHP has also launched an investigation into the cause of the accident. The County's Sheriff's Department assisted CalTrans in diverting traffic around the tunnel, while our Public Works Department staff assisted with closures of freeway on-ramps. Metrolink and Metro representatives enhanced existing train and bus service to accommodate the increased demand for public transportation.

The public demands that its elected officials, department managers, and line staff respond immediately, efficiently, and promptly to emergencies. We appreciate their valiant efforts to protect life and property in times of crisis.

The incident in the Newhall Pass also illustrates the importance of establishing an Inland Port in the Antelope Valley. Transporting freight from our ports by rail to a terminal in the Antelope Valley where it may be picked up by truck and distributed to the rest of the nation, will reduce truck traffic on County freeways -- improving traffic safety, mobility and air quality.

- M O R E -

MOTION

OCT 23 2007

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Officer of the Board to draft separate 5-signature letters from the Board of Supervisors to the California State Department of Transportation, the California Highway Patrol, Metrolink, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the Los Angeles County Sheriff, commending their efforts to protect the public during the tunnel fire, divert traffic where possible, maximize opportunities to utilize public transportation, and keep the public informed throughout the duration of the Interstate 5 truck tunnel fire in the Newhall Pass.

Approved
on 10-16-07
Agenda No.
54.A

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Los Angeles County State and Federal Advocates to support legislation to fund the inland port in the Antelope Valley.

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MDA:pno